THE EXCITER

Formerly Called Gutter Dope, Established in 1934.

Published Free of Charge Monthly by The San Antonio Radio Club.

VOL. 2, No. 2 FEBRUARY, 1959 SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

THE EXCITER

This little newspaper previously called Gutter Dope, has been published each month since 1934 by The San Antonio Radio Club. It used to be sent to club members and a few other interested people only. Now it can be had by anyone desiring it (still free). The paper first got its start as a scandal sheet, and was written by Ghost Writers. No one knew the origin of the articles, or of the true identity of the authors. A little over a year ago, the name of the paper was changed to "The Exciter". It was a result of a contest in the club for a new name for the paper. Frank Jordan W5EDX, was the member suggesting the winning name. The mailing list was revised and enlarged to include anyone who wanted to receive it. If you have anything you want to have put in the paper, let us know and we will try to help. If there are some things that you would like to see printed in our paper that does not regularly go in it, just give a yell. Write to "The Editor" P.O. Box 62, San Antonio, Texas.

FARM WANTED (The Antenna Type)

The San Antonio Radio Club is scouting around for two or three acres of land on the outskirts of town for the purpose of (one of these days we hope) building a club house and meeting place.

The meeting rooms at the Gunter Hotel are a constant drain on the club treasury, along with several other items of due importance. We are trying to eliminate some of these as soon as possible. If anyone has suitable property, or knows of some suitable property, please contact some of the club officers, or call DI 2-2225. This is Gene Jank's fone number.

We have been looking at various pieces of land that have been offered at very reasonable prices, but as yet haven't decided on any particular site.

AREC for the San Antonio Area

The communications group of the Bexar County Civil Defense Program meet on the first and third Thursday of each month at the County Court House at 7:30 P.M. The next Civil Defense indoctrination class which is required for Civil Defense membership, will be held Feb, 9th, at 7:00 P.M. A city wide drill is planned for the middle of February. The exact date will be announced later. Weekly tests for checking equipment are held on 29.6 Mc. between 7:00 and 9:00 P.M. on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Information relative to the classes and drills is passed on to the members at these week night meetings.

73's

Ray W5EDZ C.D. Unit 55

HAM DANCE

There is going to be a dance sponsored by a group of local hams at "The Party House", out San Pedro Ave. past the loop, on Feb. 13. It is for the purpose of getting the Hams and their XYL's together for a real funfest. The shindig is being put on as a non profit deal, so we hope the fellows don't lose their shirts over it.

The price for this affair is $2.50 per each which includes the ice, setups, fritos, and dips. There is a nice little band lined up to furnish the music. Tickets are available at Mod-

ern Radio, Radio & TV Parts, and Perry Shankle. You must buy your tickets in advance. If you want a ticket, and can't get one, just call CA 6-5066 and tell Red your troubles, and I'll bet he will get one to you. See you all at "The Party House", Valentine's Eve.

VHF AND UP

The Exciter, February, 1959

The FCC recently acted on a request by the ARRL to provide a CW-only portion from 50.0—50-1. and 144.0—144.1 mc. They realized the wishes of the ARRL but provided the frequencies at 50.9—51.0 and 147.9—148.0 mc, completely reversing everyone's beam heading!

ARRL Bulletin Nr. 686, 12 January 59, advises that the effective date for the above action has been delayed from the 10 January 59 date as set by the FCC. License privileges in these bands remain unchanged until further notice.

The CD Bulletin comments, "FCC apparently considers local use and casual occupancy more important than progress, not taking into much account the flexible nature of most gear for local work facilitating changes in band occupancy, such as occasioned by FCC orders in the past."

The MONITOR, Dallas, for January, 59, has an editorial comment (in part), "The question before the Commission was not of whether a "c.w. segment" alone was requested and the choice of frequnecies left to its discretion, but it was a specific request, with specific frequencies desired. What prompted this action by the Commission has left us bewildered and confused. What good are petitions and hearings if they are not recognized in their entirety?"

F2 skip hasn't produced much lately. Sporadic E and backscatter have helped out. The Six Meter Club multi-operated some Es during the January VHF Sweepstakes to run up 63 contacts. Some good 50 mc backscatter on 17 January produced signals from the west and northwest. K5GEH, K5-HYF, W5VY, Y5LFM, heard or worked: W4IKK (Tenn), W5JSB (Okla), WWI (49.88 mc, I11), K9-KKS, and VE1HT, VE7AQQ (via F2).

To make up for the generally poor conditions on Six, W5FMG, W5KRH, W5YEG and W5LFM made a visit to the Atlas Tracking station at Camp Bullis, northwest of the city, on 30 December, 58. The receiving and transmitting antenna is an array of four helicals of 7 turns each, rotatable in azimuth and elevation. The beacon transmitted ran a few milliwatts on 107.97 mc. and could be received for up to 17 minutes. The "talking" TX on 132 mc. ran 8 watts out. The Atlas receiver was triggered by a KW VHF transmitter. Interesting to note that the used Tapetone converters for the beacon, feeding Model R-390A h-f receivres.

This visit also resulted in the first bad weather of the winter, W5FMG's

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108 mc Yagi blew down, the car had a flat in the rain, the Atlas tracking helicals broke the elevation drive and could not move, and that same day, the Atlas stopped talking! Things have been quiet all over, since.

Before the cold front hit on 20 January, it brought a temperature inversion which resulted in ducting to south Texas. Observers reported excellent conditions on Six to the Valley, the FM band was loaded with out-of-town stations, and all TV channels had something basides snow. Reports even came in that the Tall Tower was overriding the local Channel 4 and 5 in the Valley, and the border stations even produced sync bars in San Antonio! DX, where is thy sting? AR for now. Cal, W5LFM.

LADIES CLUB

Hello YL's & XYL's

The January 2nd meeting was playtime with Aileen winning first prize. On the 16th, we had two films; "Bryce Canyon", and "Canoe Country". We obtained these from the Public Library here in town.

For February 6th, we are having Robert Winn of Witte Museum. He will give us a lecture on Mexican Folk Art, with true examples of pottery and weaving from his on private collection.

Girls we urge each of you to attend this meeting and bring your friends. Let's have a good turn out for this event. Films will again be shown for the Feb. 20th meeting, so bring the kiddies, for there will be a cartoon for them.

MOBILE

The transmitter hunt was postponed a week due to cold weather. The hunt was held Sunday, January 11th. George W5LFG and W5EJT Gene tied for first place. There were six hunters and all had a good time. After the hunt all the hunters and their families were invited to a barbecue

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Marion W5DBN

Don K5CYJ

at the home of Allan K5PVI. The next hunt will be held on February the 8th.

W5FQA E. C. has joined the gang on 29.6 mc. using a BC 659.

W1ZGH Ray is going mobile on 75 with an Elmac AF 67.

W5EJT

For Sale

Revere B-63 Turret Magazine 8mm camera. Keystone Projector & Screen. Norwood Light Meter. Tripod, Gadget bag, Pola k Screen. $250.

Red K5GUH CA 6-5066

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George Munsch W5VPQ
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